



HINSDALE

Berkshire County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Hinsdale is a small, quiet hilltown, nestled in the Berkshires of western Massachusetts. Its population of over 1,900 increases tremendously in the summer months due to the influx of people from more urban areas coming to enjoy the peaceful, wooded hills, lakes and fresh air.

Settled in the 1760s, Hinsdale was incorporated in 1804. Its early history saw farms and saw mills as the primary sources of occupation. In the late 1800s, textile mills flourished, and the community found itself able to install a reservoir and public water and sewer systems. In the early 1900s, the mills departed, and the railroad became the main industry. By the mid-1900s, this industry departed, as well. The Town is now primarily a bedroom community to the city of Pittsfield, and is finding it difficult to maintain the infrastructure which was established in a much more affluent time.

The Town encompasses approximately 21.7 square miles. It is home to two lakes, Lake Ashmere and Plunkett Lake, which provide recreational opportunities to residents and five summer camps for children, and to a section of Muddy Pond, the headwaters of the East Branch of the Housatonic River. Hinsdale also is home, along with neighboring communities of Peru, Washington and Dalton, to the 14,500 acre Hinsdale Flats Watershed Resource Area, designated on January 31, 1992 as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The Appalachian Trail, a national scenic trail, passes through Hinsdale, and encompasses 440 acres. There are over 1500 acres of state-owned open space within the Town's borders, as well.

Hinsdale offers an extensive recreation program for its youth, and a community center and activities for its senior citizens. It is a beautiful, rural community, in which its residents take great pride.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Western Massachusetts, bordered by Windsor on the north, Peru on the east, Washington on the south, and Dalton on the west. Hinsdale is 10 miles east of Pittsfield and 126 miles west of Boston.

Total Area: 21.70 sq. miles

Land Area: 20.84 sq. miles

Population: 1,959

Density: 94 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Great Barrington Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.1°F

Normal temperature in July.....68.1°F

Normal annual precipitation.....44.8"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Peru, Pittsfield East

Regional Planning Agency

Berkshire County

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Pittsfield



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 655-2245

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1804

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	1,182		
Democrats	250	21.2	%
Republicans	117	9.9	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	815	69.0	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Hinsdale town, Berkshire County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	1,872	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	1,872	100.0
Male.....	950	50.7	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	6	0.3
Female.....	922	49.3	Mexican.....	1	0.1
Under 5 years.....	109	5.8	Puerto Rican.....	3	0.2
5 to 9 years.....	125	6.7	Cuban.....	1	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	169	9.0	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	1	0.1
15 to 19 years.....	120	6.4	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	1,866	99.7
20 to 24 years.....	96	5.1	White alone.....	1,828	97.6
25 to 34 years.....	219	11.7	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	339	18.1	Total population.....	1,872	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	298	15.9	In households.....	1,872	100.0
55 to 64 years.....	95	5.1	Householder.....	739	39.5
65 to 74 years.....	91	4.9	Spouse.....	400	21.4
75 to 84 years.....	120	6.4	Child.....	586	31.3
85 years and over.....	81	4.3	Own child under 18 years.....	460	24.0
Median age (years).....	38.0	(X)	Other relatives.....	55	2.9
18 years and over.....	1,392	74.4	Under 18 years.....	16	0.9
Male.....	693	37.0	Nonrelatives.....	92	4.9
Female.....	699	37.3	Unmarried partner.....	51	2.7
21 years and over.....	1,336	71.4	In group quarters.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	256	13.7	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
65 years and over.....	211	11.3	Noninstitutionalized population.....	-	-
Male.....	96	5.1	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Female.....	115	6.1	Total households.....	739	100.0
RACE			Family households (families).....	510	69.0
One race.....	1,846	98.6	With own children under 18 years.....	233	31.5
White.....	1,831	97.8	Married-couple family.....	400	54.1
Black or African American.....	10	0.5	With own children under 18 years.....	162	21.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	-	-	Female householder, no husband present.....	68	9.2
Asian.....	5	0.3	With own children under 18 years.....	47	6.4
Asian Indian.....	3	0.2	Nonfamily households.....	229	31.0
Chinese.....	2	0.1	Householder living alone.....	190	25.7
Filipino.....	-	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	54	7.3
Japanese.....	-	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	247	33.4
Korean.....	-	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	151	20.4
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average household size.....	2.53	(X)
Other Asian ¹	-	-	Average family size.....	3.04	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	970	100.0
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	739	76.2
Samoan.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	231	23.8
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Some other race.....	-	-	occasional use.....	195	20.1
Two or more races.....	26	1.4	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	2.5	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	5.4	(X)
or more other races: ³			HOUSING TENURE		
White.....	1,857	99.2	Occupied housing units.....	739	100.0
Black or African American.....	17	0.9	Owner-occupied housing units.....	581	78.6
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	13	0.7	Renter-occupied housing units.....	158	21.4
Asian.....	5	0.3	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.65	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.09	(X)
Some other race.....	6	0.3			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	0
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Hinsdale is situated in Berkshire County, a region of hills and low mountains that widen to create the Berkshire Valley in the south. The major cities and towns are linked together by U.S. Route 7. North Adams and Pittsfield are major points of entry for rail freight into Massachusetts, and the region has several commercial airports. Public roads and highways meet the requirements of modern transportation.

Major Highways

The principal highway is State Route 8, which runs N-S through the Berkshires from cross-state U.S. Route 20.

Rail

Conrail provides freight rail service to Hinsdale. Contact number: (617) 783-6222

Bus

Hinsdale is a member of the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA), which provides fixed route service between Hinsdale, Dalton, and Pittsfield. User side paratransit services are available for the elderly and disabled.

Other

The Pittsfield Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located in neighboring Pittsfield, has 2 asphalt runways 3,496' and 5,000' long. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision. Scheduled airline service is available in Albany, New York, and at Bradley Field in Connecticut (both approx. an hour from Pittsfield).



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Ashmere Manor N. H.

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.